

REMARKS

Claims 4, 8, 19, 22-24, 26, 27, 29, 33-35, 37-39 and 43 are pending in the application.

In the aforementioned Office Action, claims 4, 8, 19, 22, 29, 33 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sakoda et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,234) in view of *Furuta et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,198). Claims 26, 27 and 37-39 are allowed. Claims 23, 24, 34 and 35 are objected to.

To expedite prosecution and without acquiescing to the Examiner's positions, by this amendment claims 4, 8, 19, 22, 29, 33 and 43 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 23, 24, 34 and 35 have been rewritten in independent form with each claim includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In light of the above amendment and remarks, with the remaining claims 23, 24, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 37-39, Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are respectfully requested.

In the event of any fees that may be due or any overpayments that may be associated with this response, please charge or deposit the amount to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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